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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, ALLEN H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/632,417

Applicant(s)

TEHRANI ET AL.

Examiner

Allen H. Nguyen

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date see attached.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 08/01/03 has been considered by the examiner.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-8, 10, 12-22, 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Venable (US 6,738,154).

Regarding claim 1, Venable '154 discloses a method, comprising:

scanning a plurality of objects and generating a plurality of scanned images (i.e., user to expediently scan a plurality of distinct documents or objects in a single scanning operation with a plurality scanned images; see col. 3, lines 14-16, fig. 10, region 430);

selecting a predefined template for arranging at least two of said scanned images on a single page (i.e., a scanning process, allowing multiple original documents to be scanned , as well as the document composition process by recomposing the documents into a single document using a predetermined template; see col. 3, lines 24-28);

automatically arranging at least two of said scanned images on said single page based at least in part on said selected template (i.e., as noted, a predefined template may be used to automatically "place" image objects in relative positions on a document or page ; see col. 13, lines 52-54).

Regarding claim 2, Venable '154 discloses the method, wherein said automatically arranging comprises automatically arranging at least two of said scanned images for printing on said single page (i.e., a printing engine to produce, in accordance with the output document, a substrate bearing marks in accordance with representations contained in the output document or page; see col. 3, lines 5-7).

Regarding claim 3, Venable '154 discloses the method, wherein said automatically arranging comprises automatically arranging at least two of said scanned images for storage as said single page (i.e., enable a user to expediently scan a plurality of distinct documents or objects in a single scanning operation with a plurality of scanned images; see col. 3, lines 14-16), said single page being part of an image file (i.e., automatically separate those objects by recognizing them as independent objects within the digitized image; see col. 3, line 16-17).

Regarding claim 4, Venable '154 discloses the method, further comprising:

automatically transferring image data related to said single page to a printing device (i.e., a printing engine to produce, in accordance with the output document, a substrate bearing marks in accordance with representations contained in the output document or page; see col. 3, lines 5-7);

automatically printing said at least two of said scanned images on a single page (i.e., a printing engine to produce, in accordance with the output document, a substrate bearing marks in accordance with representations contained in the output document or page; see col. 3, lines 5-7).

Regarding claim 5, Venable '154 discloses the method, further comprising receiving an input specifying a number of said scanned images to be arranged on said single page (i.e., the image objects may be manipulated by the scanning system to automatically orient and position the images on the same page; see col. 13, lines 1-3, fig. 10, region 430).

Regarding claim 6, Venable '154 discloses the method, wherein said selecting comprises selecting said template based at least in part on a user-specified number of said scanned images to be arranged on said single page (i.e., the selected image objects may be automatically placed in a predefined template and rendered, such as the representation depicted in region 430 of the user interface; see fig. 10).

Regarding claim 7, Venable '154 discloses the method, wherein said selecting comprises selecting said template based at least in part on a size of at least one of said plurality of objects (i.e., having identified each of the objects within the image, it is possible to isolate the objects, create separate images therefrom, and to then individually process the images. Thus the individual image objects automatically placed within the template of region 430 may be individually selected; see col. 13, lines 33-38, fig. 10).

Regarding claim 8, Venable '154 discloses the method, further comprising scaling said scanned images prior to said automatically arranging step (i.e., the individual image objects automatically placed within the template of region 430 may be individually selected, manipulated, scaled; see col. 13, lines 36-38).

Regarding claim 10, Venable '154 discloses the method, wherein said automatically arranging comprises automatically arranging said at least two scanned images based at least in part on orientation information specified by said selected template (i.e., identifying the plurality of objects within the digitized input image, modeling shapes representing boundaries of each of the plurality of objects, and characterizing each of the plurality of objects by parameters including shape, position and orientation; see col. 2, lines 34-38).

Art Unit: 2625

Regarding claim 12, Venable '154 discloses a method, comprising:

receiving an input specifying a number of scanned images to be arranged in a predefined area (i.e., identifying the plurality of objects within the digitized input image, modeling shapes representing boundaries of each of the plurality of objects; see col. 2, lines 58-60);

generating said specified number of scanned images by scanning an equal number of objects (i.e., the techniques enable a user to expediently scan a plurality of distinct documents or objects in a single scanning operation; see col. 3, lines 13-15);

selecting a predefined template from a plurality of different templates for arranging said specified number of scanned images in said predefined area (i.e., as noted, a predefined template may be used to automatically "place" image objects in relative positions on a document or page thereof. It will be appreciated that such templates may be in the form of a structured image definition, so that the template can be used to specify a different layout for the structured image to be generated; see col. 13, lines 52-57);

automatically arranging said specified number of scanned images in said predefined area according to said predefined template (i.e., the individual image objects automatically placed within the template of region 430 may be individually selected, manipulated, scaled, rotated or cropped; see col. 13, lines 35-39).

Regarding claim 13, Venable '154 discloses the method, wherein said specified number of scanned images are arranged to create a combined image on a single page

(i.e., a predefined template may be used to automatically "place" image objects in relative positions on a document or page; see col. 13, lines 52-54, fig. 10, region 430).

Regarding claim 14, Venable '154 discloses the method, further comprising automatically rotating at least one of scanned images to create said combined image (i.e., the individual image objects automatically placed within the template of region 430 may be individually selected, manipulated, scaled, rotated or cropped; see col. 13, lines 36-39, and fig. 10, region 430).

Regarding claim 15, Venable '154 discloses the method, wherein said selecting step comprises automatically selecting said predefined template by a device selected from the group consisting of a scanner and a computer (i.e., a method allowing multiple original documents to be scanned at one time, as well as the document composition process by recomposing the documents into a single document or page using a predetermined template from the system including an image input device and a computer; see col. 3, lines 25-28, and fig. 1).

Regarding claim 16, Venable '154 discloses the method, wherein said selecting comprises selecting said template based on a size of at least one of said scanned objects and said specified number of scanned images (i.e., an image may be processed so as to identify specific "objects" within the image, each of which is itself an image. A



object may be of any size and shape and has "physical attributes" or characteristics including to position, shape and orientation of scanned images; see col. 4, lines 32-36).

Regarding claim 17, Venable '154 discloses the method, wherein said predefined area is non-rectangular in shape (i.e., the description is extensible to other polygons and even to shapes having portions thereof represented by curves, such as circular or elliptical objects; see col. 8, lines 37-40).

Regarding claim 18, Venable '154 discloses the method, wherein said predefined area is rectangular in shape (the object traces are fit to a rectangular model, col. 8, line 48, fig. 10).

Regarding claim 19, Venable '154 discloses an image capture device, comprising:

application logic operatively associated with said image capture device (Image Input Device 26, fig. 2) and operable to:

scan a plurality of objects and generate a plurality of scanned images (i.e., user to expediently scan a plurality of distinct documents or objects in a single scanning operation with a plurality of scanned images; see col. 3, lines 14-16, fig. 10, region 430);

automatically select a predefined template for arranging at least two of said scanned images on a single page (i.e., a scanning process, allowing multiple original documents to be scanned , as well as the document composition process by

recomposing the documents into a single document using a predetermined template;  
see col. 3, lines 24-28);

automatically arrange at least two of said scanned images on said single page based at least in part on said selected template (i.e., as noted, a predefined template may be used to automatically "place" image objects in relative positions on a document or page ; see col. 13, lines 52-54).

Regarding claim 20, Venable '154 discloses the image capture device, wherein said application logic is further operable to automatically arrange at least two of said scanned images on said single page based on a number and size of scanned images on said single page (i.e., as noted, a predefined template may be used to automatically "place" image objects in relative positions on a document or page. Therefore, image objects may be of any size and shape and has "physical attributes" or characteristics according to position, shape and orientation; see col. 13, lines 52-54, fig. 10).

Regarding claim 21, Venable '154 discloses the image capture device, wherein said application logic is further operable to automatically arrange said at least two of said scanned images for storage as said single page (i.e., as noted, a predefined template may be used to automatically "place" image objects in relative positions on a document or page; see col. 13, lines 52-54, fig. 10, region 430), said single page being part of an image file (an image may be processed so as to identify specific "objects" within the image, each of which is itself an image, col. 4, lines 32-33).

Regarding claim 22, Venable '154 discloses the image capture device, wherein said scanned images have different sizes (i.e., an object may be of any size and shape and has "physical attributes" or characteristics including, but not limited, to position, shape and orientation; see col. 4, lines 34-36).

Regarding claim 25, Venable '154 discloses the image capture device, further comprising a memory device operable to store a plurality of predefined templates (i.e., system 20 includes a computer 22 capable of receiving digital data representing an image of an original document 24 placed upon a platen of scanner 26. Computer 22, initially stores the digital input data from scanner 26 in memory 52 where the image may subsequently be accessed; see col. 5, lines 35-40, figs. 1-2).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 9, 11, 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Venable (US 6,738,154) in view of Hart et al. (US 5,553,217).

Regarding claim 9, it is noted that Venable '154 does not explicitly show the method, wherein said automatically arranging comprises automatically arranging said at least two scanned images based at least in part on an offset information specified by said selected template.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art as evidenced by Hart '217. In particular, Hart '217 teaches the method, wherein said automatically arranging comprises automatically arranging said at least two scanned images based at least in part on an offset information specified by said selected template (i.e., document layout page 600 on which object areas 605 and 610 have already been placed and upon which object area 615 will be placed. From each previously placed object area 605 and 610, two possible anchor points are created: one being offset from the bottom left corners, 620 and 625, of the previously placed object areas and one being **offset** from the top right corners, 630 and 635, of the previously placed object areas; see col. 6, lines 45-50, fig. 6A).

In view of the above, having the system of Venable '154 and then given the well-established teaching of Hart '217, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Venable '154 as taught by Hart '217, since Hart '217 stated in col. 1, lines 14+ that such a modification would ensure the paste-up process consists of arranging text and pictures to fit on a page and conform to a specific page layout format.

Regarding claim 11, Venable '154 discloses the method, wherein said automatically arranging comprises:

automatically rotating at least one of said at least two scanned images to fit said at least two scanned images on said single page (i.e., the individual image objects automatically placed within the template of region 430 may be individually selected, manipulated, scaled, rotated or cropped; see col. 13, lines 36-39, fig. 10, region 430);

It is noted that Venable '154 does not show automatically arranging said at least two scanned images on said single page such that said at least two scanned images do not overlap.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art as evidenced by Hart '217. In particular, Hart '217 teaches automatically arranging said at least two scanned images on said single page such that said at least two scanned images do not overlap (i.e., fig. 5, step 530 performs a geometric test on the current anchor point to determine if the placement of the current object area at that anchor point would result in the object area overlapping a previously placed object area or spanning a side boundary of a document layout page, Step 540 and Step 545 further avoiding the overlap; see col. 7, lines 28-32, and figs. 7A-7B).

In view of the above, having the system of Venable '154 and then given the well-established teaching of Hart '217, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Venable '154 as taught by Hart '217, since Hart '217 stated in col. 1, lines 14+ that such a

modification would ensure the paste-up process consists of arranging text and pictures to fit on a page and conform to a specific page layout format.

Regarding claim 26, it is noted that Venable '154 does not explicitly show the image capture device, wherein said application logic is further operable to automatically arrange said at least two scanned images based at least in part on an offset information specified by said selected template.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art as evidenced by Hart '217. In particular, Hart '217 teaches the image capture device, wherein said application logic is further operable to automatically arrange said at least two scanned images based at least in part on an offset information specified by said selected template (i.e., the previously placed object areas and one being offset from the top right corners, 630 and 635, of the previously placed object areas; see col., 6, lines 50-52, fig. 6A).

In view of the above, having the system of Venable '154 and then given the well-established teaching of Hart '217, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Venable '154 as taught by Hart '217, since Hart '217 stated in col. 1, lines 14+ that such a modification would ensure the paste-up process consists of arranging text and pictures to fit on a page and conform to a specific page layout format.

Regarding claim 27, it is noted that Venable '154 does not show the image capture device, wherein said offset information comprises an X-offset and a Y-offset.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art as evidenced by Hart '217. In particular, Hart '217 teaches the image capture device, wherein said offset information comprises an X-offset and a Y-offset (i.e., the offset of each anchor point is M units on the horizontal plane or X-axis and N units on the vertical plane or Y-axis; see col. 6, lines 53-55, fig. 6A).

In view of the above, having the system of Venable '154 and then given the well-established teaching of Hart '217, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Venable '154 as taught by Hart '217, since Hart '217 stated in col. 1, lines 14+ that such a modification would ensure the paste-up process consists of arranging text and pictures to fit on a page and conform to a specific page layout format.

Regarding claim 28, it is noted that Venable '154 does not show the image capture device, wherein said X-offset indicates a distance from a side of said single page and said Y-offset indicates a distance from a top of said single page.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art as evidenced by Hart '217. In particular, Hart '217 teaches the image capture device, wherein said X-offset indicates a distance from a side of said single page and said Y-offset indicates a distance from a top of said single page (i.e., values of M and N to be

Art Unit: 2625

equivalent to 1/4 inch each. Of course, other embodiments can use different values for M or N; see col. 6, lines 56-57, fig. 6A).

In view of the above, having the system of Venable '154 and then given the well-established teaching of Hart '217, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Venable '154 as taught by Hart '217, since Hart '217 stated in col. 1, lines 14+ that such a modification would ensure the paste-up process consists of arranging text and pictures to fit on a page and conform to a specific page layout format.

6. Claims 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Venable (US 6,738,154) in view of Kamon et al. (US 5,231,516).

Regarding claim 23, it is noted that Venable '154 does not explicitly show the image capture device, wherein at least one of said scanned images is rotated ninety degrees to fit on said single page.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art as evidenced by Kamon '516. In particular, Kamon '516 teaches the image capture device, wherein at least one of said scanned images is rotated ninety degrees to fit on said single page (i.e., In an image processing case corresponding to processing in which the recording image is rotated 90 degree; see col. 13, lines 17-18, fig. 9).

In view of the above, having the system of Venable '154 and then given the well-established teaching of Kamon '516, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary



Art Unit: 2625

skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Venable '154 as taught by Kamon '516, since Kamon '516 stated in col. 1, lines 12+ that such a modification would ensure to store an image signal provided by reading images of plural originals or divisional originals and record plural images on one sheet of recording paper.

Regarding claim 24, it is noted that Venable '154 does not explicitly show the image capture device, wherein said application logic is further operable to automatically rotate said at least one of said scanned images by ninety degrees.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art as evidenced by Kamon '516. In particular, Kamon '516 teaches the image capture device, wherein said application logic is further operable to automatically rotate said at least one of said scanned images by ninety degrees (i.e., when the original is scanned by the scanner in the longitudinal direction and the divisional number N is equal to 8, it is necessary to automatically rotate image data on the first page of the original rightward by 90 degree; see col. 20, lines 58-61, fig. 34, Judge Rotational Direction S-21).

In view of the above, having the system of Venable '154 and then given the well-established teaching of Kamon '516, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Venable '154 as taught by Kamon '516, since Kamon '516 stated in col. 1, lines 12+ that such a modification would ensure to store an image signal provided by reading images of plural

Art Unit: 2625

originals or divisional originals and record plural images on one sheet of recording paper.

### ***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Fukushima et al. (US 7,151,617) discloses image synthesizing apparatus.

Squilla et al. (US 6,362,900) discloses system and method of constructing a photo album.

Sternberg et al (US 6,763,148) discloses image recognition methods.

Chilton et al. (US 5,592,574) discloses method and apparatus for expansion of white space in document images on a digital scanning device.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-270-1229. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9:00 AM-6:00 PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung Moe can be reached on (571)-272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2625

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AN

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
6/8/07